

NEW YORK TIMES

17 OCT 1972

MARCOS APPROVES NEW NEWSPAPER

Daily Will Print 'Positive
News,' Official Says

By HENRY KAMM
Special to the New York Times

MANILA, Oct. 16—The martial-law Government of President Ferdinand E. Marcos today authorized a new daily newspaper, The Times-Journal, to begin publication.

Lorenzo J. Cruz, assistant Secretary of Public Information, said that the staff had been found to be "respectable" journalists not involved in corruption or subversion.

"They've agreed to write positive news," he said.

For the time being, The Times-Journal, which hopes to begin publishing Saturday, will not be allowed to comment on the news.

A Tone of Approval

The Daily Express, the only newspaper now publishing, prints no editorials or analysis either, but throughout its articles there runs a tone of fervent approval of what President Ferdinand E. Marcos has termed the "New Society."

In a related move, Francisco S. Tatad, head of the newly-created Department of Public Information, said that censorship of dispatches by foreign correspondents would soon be ended.

But Mr. Marcos has made it clear that the ban on Philippine newspapers, radio and television, which he decreed with the proclamation of martial law on Sept. 23, is far more than a temporary suspension.

What the Government is in fact doing is to consider which newspapers it will kill and which it will eventually allow to resume publication under stringent self-censorship. Meanwhile, some 16 Manila editors, reporters and columnists remain detained without charges in military stockades.

Some to Face Court

"Some will be released," said Mr. Cruz, "and those that remain detained will face a court."

He said he did not know when releases or trials might take place, or what charges would be preferred against the journalists to be accused.

In ordering seizure of the press, Mr. Marcos declared without further specification that newspapers, magazines and broadcasting stations had participated in the alleged conspiracy to take over the government by force.

While the government is giving "serious consideration" to allowing two established newspapers to resume publication soon, Mr. Cruz said, two or three papers might be permanently suppressed. In journalistic circles, speculation is that these will include The Manila Times, considered the country's leading newspaper, and The Manila Chronicle.

Publisher Detained

The publisher of The Times, Joaquin Rocas, is among those detained. The Chronicle is owned by the family of Vice President Fernando López, whom Mr. Marcos castigates as an oligarch. The Chronicle's editor, Armando Doronila, is under arrest.

When a newspaper's right to resume publication is considered, the loyalty to the Government of its staff is examined by military intelligence.

"We don't want them to destroy what we are trying to build," Mr. Cruz said.

But even a newspaper that President Marcos declared had not participated in the reported conspiracy, the conservative Philippines Herald, has had its authorization to publish held up after the President issued it on Sept. 26. Since then the paper has proceeded every day as though it were going to publish but the go-ahead phone call from the Presidential Palace has failed to arrive.

No reason for the continued ban has been given.

Steel Mills Nationalized

MANILA, Oct. 16 (Reuters)—President Ferdinand E. Marcos nationalized the country's two steel mills today.

A Government spokesman said troops had moved into the mills to insure an adequate supply of steel products. He said one mill had been offered voluntarily by the management and the other had been closed since August, 1971, because of financial problems.

Meanwhile more than a million students returned to classes in 900 high schools and colleges throughout the Philippines today after they had been closed under martial law.

Arrests Reported

MANILA, Oct. 16 (AP) — The armed forces arrested an undetermined number of men and confiscated arms and explosives in raids in the greater Manila area, Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said today.

The raids followed reports that dissident suicide squads were in the city to assassinate President Marcos. No further details were available, Mr. Tatad told newsmen.